THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 18th March 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Rents for the buildings in Cox-cheri, Madras.

* 59 *Q.*—SRI A. RATHINAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Cox-cheri building was constructed for housing Harijans;

(*b*) when the construction was completed; and

(*c*) why the building is not leased and allowed to persons for whom it was constructed?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) The Cox-cheri buildings were constructed for housing the inhabitants of the cheri, including Harijans.

" (*b*) The construction of two blocks of buildings was completed one in April 1951 and the other in November 1951.

" (*c*) The cost of construction of the two blocks exceeded the estimates by nearly 50 per cent consequent on the rise in the cost of materials and labour. Further, the subsidies which the Madras City Improvement Trust hoped to get from the Central and State Governments were not made available. In the circumstances, the Trust has not been able to fix the economic rents for the buildings at rates which will be within the moderate means of the hut dwellers. It has therefore provided alternative accommodation to these hut dwellers in Kodambakkam and has also made ex-gratia payments to them."

SRI A. RATHINAM:—" Sir, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state for whom the building was constructed? Was it not for the residents of Cox-cheri? What is the rent proposed to be fixed for each room in the building; what is the area of the room to be had by each tenant, and whether the inhabitants ... ..."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member is putting a number of questions at the same time. Let him put them one by one."

SRI A. RATHINAM:—" Sir, what is the area of each room?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" I have no information about the area of each room. As I said already, the cost of construction has gone up by 50 per cent over the estimated

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figure. No grant was received from the Central Government and from the State Government. So, no economic rents could be fixed."

SRI A. RATHINAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state how many inhabitants of Cox-cheri were evicted and were not provided with alternative sites and facilities? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" About 50 families, receiving ex-gratia payments, have voluntarily gone over to Kodambakkam."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that several hundred families were dispossessed of their houses in Cox-cheri, and only half a dozen families are housed in Kodambakkam by the City Improvement Trust? I have first-hand knowledge of this."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I think in all there were about 120 families."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, what is the amount of the ex-gratia payment to each of the families? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Rs. 100."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, why was it that the State Government did not give any subsidy—let alone the Government of India? What stood in the way of the State Government coming forward with the subsidy so that people who were displaced could get houses there itself? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It must be for want of finance."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister that these Harijans of Cox-cheri have been granted some land in Kodambakkam, may I know whether these alternative house-sites provided for Harijans are quite fit for habitation, and have all the amenities for habitation? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"Yes, Sir. It is a good land."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" When these houses were built, did the State Government promise the City Improvement Trust a subsidy? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The City Improvement Trust was expecting subsidy. I do not think the Government promised any subsidy."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Why was not the economic construction of the houses made to be commensurate with the economic ability of the Harijans to pay? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said that the cost of materials and labour went up, and no help was received from the Government. So, no economic rents could be fixed."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" అసలు మొత్తము ఎంత? expenditure ఎంత?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No information, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, is their present residence at Kodambakkam an improvement on their old residence?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir."

Causeway across the river Pageru, Cuddapah district.

*60 Q.—SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) when the causeway work across the river Pageru near Kamalapuram, Cuddapah district, was sanctioned;

(b) the amount sanctioned;

(c) whether the sanctioned amount was increased later for any reason;

(d) if so, by how much and for what reasons; and

(e) at what stage the work is at present?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) & (b) The work was sanctioned for execution in 1950–51 at an estimated cost of Rs. 67,000.

" (c) & (d) The estimated cost of the work was revised to Rs. 90,000 on account of the increase in tender rates.

" (e) An expenditure of Rs. 30,280 has been incurred on the work so far. The work is likely to be completed by March 1954."

SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI :—" ఇప్పటికే యీ causeway work పూర్తి చేయటానికి చాలా ఆలస్యము అయింది కాబట్టి యీపని ఎంతకాలంలోపుగా పూర్తి కాగలదో ప్రభుత్వం స్పష్టంగా చెప్పగలరా?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" It will be completed by 1954." 8–40 a.m.

SRI D. SITHARAMIAH :—" అక్కడ కార్మికులు ఎంతమంది పని చేస్తున్నారు. కంట్రాక్టరు యీ కూలీలకు చాలా తక్కువ రేటు ఇస్తున్నారు. అది సరియైన రేటు కాదని అంటున్నారు. అట్లాంటప్పుడు అట్లా తక్కువ రేటు యివ్వకుండా గవర్నమెంటువారు శ్రద్ధతీసుకొని సరియైన రేటు యిప్పిస్తారా?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I require fresh notice of the question."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" ఎస్టిమేటు అరు వేలనుంచి తొంభైవేలవరకు హెచ్చుచేశారు. మంత్రిగారు యీపని 1954 వ సంవత్సరంలోగాని పూర్తి కాదంటున్నారు. ఇంకను ఆ కాలపరిమితి హెచ్చుచేస్తారా?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" That too depends on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer."